

Maryland. This is an undertaking perhaps without equal in the nation. I know that you, who are so close to the program, can comprehend its significance. Surveying all of our national buildings and then computing their adequacy as a refuge from lethal radioactive fallout was a monumental task, but not one from which our federal Civil Defense officials shied away. This survey was accomplished by what was a relatively short span of time and was done in an amazingly competent manner. The federal government would never have undertaken such a project had it not been for its realization that dedicated officials on the state and local level would do their part in the program. I believe that in your contacts with the public and with other governmental officials you should stress this accomplishment most strongly. It is something of which we are quite proud. It is tangible proof that Civil Defense is moving — moving with speed toward the goal of protection. The public cannot learn about this unless you blow your own horn a little.

General Van Brunt told me recently that nearly 700,000 shelter spaces have been licensed and marked in Maryland. Here we have in one package, so to speak, the capability of saving 700,000 lives of our fellow Marylanders. Already more than half of these spaces have been stocked with the survival items with which you are so familiar. This is the part of the program for which you in this room were personally responsible, and I hasten to offer my congratulations for a job well done.

Just recently, I had the opportunity of participating in the formal opening ceremonies of a new facility at College Park, the expanded Fire Service and Civil Defense Training Center. The new structures that comprise this center will fill a much needed demand in our State. We see here again evidence of State agencies working together for the benefit of all Marylanders. The mission of the Fire Service is not far removed from that of Civil Defense. This is typified at the University of Maryland center. Both fire departments and civil defense have constant need for well-trained personnel to carry out their duties. Also, they have the similar need of providing training and guidance for others of our population who are not as well-versed in the activity. The expanded program at College Park opens broad, new, and promising horizons. The cooperation of the two agencies, the Maryland Civil Defense Agency, and the Fire Service Extension, in planning for the construction and guiding it to completion, is most heartening. The forthcoming coordinate training program will be an achievement of more than moderate consequences.